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February 8, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Assistance  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Comments on the Proposal for Additional Grant Funding

Ms. Billington,

Grant funding under IRWM/ICWM Proposition 50 Grant Program facilitated the development of watershed planning for Ocean Protection. Under the planning grant award, the University of California at San Diego (UCSD)/Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) created a coastal watershed management plan (Plan) which is the foundation for protecting Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) 29 and 31. Implementation funding is necessary to allow UCSD/SIO to follow through with the projects outlined in our Plan.

UCSD/SIO architected the Plan for ASBS protection that specifically addresses coastal ecosystem-based management strategies capable of being applied as a State-wide model. In order to maintain the momentum gained through the planning effort, the funding for implementation through the second round of IRWM/ICWM Proposition 50 Grant Program is critical.

We look forward to seeking implementation funding and continuing our partnership with the State for Ocean Protection through the implementation of our Plan.

If you have any questions or comments, contact me at (858) 534-1563 at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Julie Hampel  
University of California, San Diego  
Environmental Affairs Division Manager  
Environment, Health, & Safety